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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-seventh session the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1991/23, in which it reiterated its concern that programme and resource proposals for long-term solutions responding to the needs of the Centre for Human Rights and commensurate with its workload should be included in the outline of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on developments relating to the Centre for Human Rights, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

2. The Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly (A/46/603) accordingly advised Member States of the latest developments relating to the activities of the Centre, in conjunction with the submission of his programme budget proposals. In that report, the Secretary-General stressed the dramatic increase that had taken place in all areas of the Centre's activities, something that had also been the subject of his management and workload study of the Centre.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/118 of 17 December 1991 on the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights, emphasized that, in reviewing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, adequate staffing, temporary assistance and other resources should be allocated to the Centre

so as to enable it to respond to its increasing workload and to cover its needs in order to carry out all the functions assigned to it, including the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights and the Conference itself. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were accorded to the Centre to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, all the mandates, including the additional ones, on the basis of the decisions of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and on the measures taken to implement that resolution.

4. Based on the Secretary-General's proposals and taking account of the findings of the management and workload study, the General Assembly approved an 8.7 per cent increase in the regular budget of the Centre for 1992-1993. In addition, it approved certain redeployments and additional posts. A D-1 post has been redeployed from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General to the Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch, so that all three branches are now headed at the D-1 level. A post has been established at the D-2 level of Deputy to the Head of the Centre, with responsibility for guiding the day-to-day activities of the Centre and overseeing the implementation of its programme of work. Steps are being taken to fill this new post as soon as possible.

5. To strengthen the handling of communications (complaints, petitions, appeals) under the procedures established in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the General Assembly has decided to approve two posts at the Professional level (one P-4 and one P-3) and two General Service temporary posts. Likewise, to address the increased workload of the Special Procedures Section relating to various recurrent activities under mandates of the Economic and Social Council, a total of four Professional (two P-4 and two P-3) and four General Service temporary posts have been approved through the conversion of general temporary assistance funds, with a corresponding decrease in the latter. It is the intention of the General Assembly to examine proposals for the establishment of all these posts on a permanent basis no later than at the time of consideration of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995.

6. In respect of treaty bodies, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/111 of 17 December 1991, requested the Secretary-General to review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various treaty bodies and, as a matter of priority, to consider administrative and budgetary measures to alleviate the current financial difficulties of the treaty bodies, and to report thereon to the Commission at its forty-eighth session. In his report to the General Assembly (A/46/603), the Secretary-General elaborated on the substantial increase in the workload of the Centre in this area of its activities, which has resulted from the doubling of the number of treaty monitoring bodies being serviced by the Centre and a cumulative increase in the number of States parties to the various international human rights instruments (from 385 to 602). In addition to the posts already approved in connection with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, further strengthening of the Centre was approved in the light of

the expectation that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will enter into force during the biennium. The establishment of two Professional (one P-4 and one P-3) and two General Service posts has been approved as from 1993.

7. The net increase in posts for the biennium amounts to 17. In response to concerns about the consequential reduction in general temporary assistance funds, the General Assembly in its resolution 46/185 C (XIX) requested the Secretary-General with regard to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the level of general temporary assistance for section 28, to ensure that adequate resources were available during the biennium 1992-1993.

8. The General Assembly also approved an appropriation of US$ 1,837,000 for the biennium in connection with the Centre's preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993.